

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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NEA-10 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0309

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 01118

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNSC, SF
SUBJECT: PROCEDURAL "GUIDELINES" FOR SOUTH AFRICA ARMS
EMBARGO COMMITTEE

REF: USUN 01063

1. CHAIRMAN OF NEW SOUTH AFRICA ARMS EMBARGO COMMITTEE
(BISHARA-KUWAIT) CALLED MISOFF MARCH 28, TO SAY HE HAD
"FINISHED GUIDELINES" FOR COMMITTEE'S PROCEDURES.
BISHARA DESCRIBED GUIDELINES (PARA FOUR BELOW) AS
REPRESENTING "GENERAL VIEWS" OF ALL SC MEMBERS HE HAS
CONSULTED OVER LAST SEVERAL WEEKS. BISHARA
EMPHASIZED HIS CONCERN THAT COMMITTEE MUST HAVE
"TEETH" AND NOT REMAIN "WINDOW DRESSING". BISHARA
GUIDELINES DO GO A LONG WAY TOWARD MEETING CONCERNS
OF FIVE, BUT THEY STOP SHORT OF FLAT ENDORSEMENT OF OUR
POINTS OF VIEW. MISSION BELIEVES THAT WE CAN WORK WITH
BISHARA GUIDELINES IF THEY ARE SUITABLY AMENDED AT
FIRST SUBSTANTIVE MEETING OF COMMITTEE SCHEDULED FOR
MARCH 29 AT 3:30 PM.

2. MISSION BELIEVES US REP AT MARCH 29 MEETING SHOULD
ARGUE FOR FOLLOWING:
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A) GENERAL: BISHARA "GUIDELINES" ARE "DRAFT
GUIDELINES" UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE;
B) PRESS CONFERENCES: CHAIRMAN MUST SEEK COMMITTEE
APPROVAL FOR ANY PRESS CONFERENCES;
C) CONSENSUS PROCEDURES: COMMITTEE MUST OPERATE BY
CONSENSUS. IF BY "OTHER MEANS", BISHARA MEANS
NORMAL CONSULTATIVE ACTIVITY BY CHAIRMAN

IN ATTEMPT TO BREAK AN IMPASSE, THEN US CAN AGREE
(BISHARA TOLD MISOFF THAT THIS WAS IN FACT WHAT HE
MEANT BY "OTHER MEANS" AND "ANY DEVICE"). GUIDELINES
SHOULD SPELL OUT THIS LIMITED FORMULATION,
LEAVING NO DOUBT THAT "CONSENSUS PROCEDURES" MEANS
EXACTLY THAT;

D) PUBLIC MEETINGS: ANY PUBLIC MEETINGS SHOULD BE HELD
ONLY UPON AGREEMENT OF ALL MEMBERS;

E) PARTICIPATION BY NON-SC MEMBERS: "PARTICIPATION"
SHOULD BE LIMITED TO MAKING STATEMENTS BEFORE
THE COMMITTEE AND SHOULD NOT MEAN PARTICIPATION IN
THE COMMITTEE'S DELIBERATIONS.

3. WESTERN FIVE WILL CONSULT ON BISHARA GUIDELINES MARCH
29 AT 11:30 AM. MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT US, AT THAT
MEETING, SUGGEST THAT FIVE PARTICIPATE IN ARMS
EMBARGO COMMITTEE MEETING MARCH 29 AND CONCERT AN
APPROACH TIGHTENING GUIDELINES ALONG LINES SUGGESTED
PARA 2 ABOVE.

4. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF BISHARA GUIDELINES:

GUIDELINES FOR THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE ON ARMS EMBARGO
AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

- THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMITTEE IS A MEANS TO AN END
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AND NOT AN END BY ITSELF.

- THE MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE IS TO WATCH ANY BUSTING OF
THE EMBARGO AND REPORT THEREON.

- THE SUCCESS OF THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE DEPENDS ON THE
COOPERATION OF ALL MEMBER STATES, ESPECIALLY THE PERMANENT
MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL. IT IS THEREFORE
IMPERATIVE TO SECURE THIS COOPERATION.

- THE CHAIRMAN AS WELL AS THE MEMBERS ARE ANXIOUS TO SEE
THE COMMITTEE WORK EFFECTIVELY.

- IT IS THE INTENTION OF THE CHAIRMAN TO HOLD PRESS
CONFERENCES IF NECESSARY, IN ORDER TO MAKE THE WORK OF THE
COMMITTEE KNOWN TO THE PRESS. IT IS THE UNDERSTANDING
OF THE CHAIRMAN THAT THE COMMITTEE IS NOT AN
UNDERGROUND SUBSIDIARY OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

- THE DECISIONS OF THE COMMITTEE WILL BE REACHED
PREFERABLY BY CONSENSUS. BUT CONSENSUS DOES NOT MEAN
THAT ANY MEMBER CAN CRIPPLE THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE.

- IF A CONSENSUS IS NOT REACHED ON A PARTICULAR ISSUE, OTHER MEANS SHOULD BE ENVISIONED. IN OTHER WORDS, THE CHAIRMAN WILL NOT RULE OUT ANY DEVICE TO MAKE THE COMMITTEE FUNCTION PROPERLY AND EFFECTIVELY.

- THE COMMITTEE WILL HOLD ITS MEETING IN PRIVATE SESSIONS, BUT HERE ALSO, PUBLIC MEETINGS CANNOT BE RULED OUT AS AND WHEN NECESSARY FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE COMMITTEE.

- IT IS ALSO THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE CHAIRMAN THAT NON-MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL COULD BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 01118

THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE ON AD HOC BASIS IF THAT IS NECESSARY AND USEFUL TO THE PROGRESS OF ITS WORK.

- THE COMMITTEE SHOULD BE FLEXIBLE IN ITS APPROACH AND ITS WORK TO FULFILL ITS MANDATE.

- IT IS AN UNQUESTIONABLE FACT THAT THE PRIMARY SOURCES OF INFORMATION ARE THE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL WHICH POSSESS THE MEANS TO FURNISH THE COMMITTEE WITH THE NECESSARY INFORMATION.

- IT IS THEREFORE IMPERATIVE TO OBTAIN THE WILLINGNESS AND THE COOPERATION OF THESE PERMANENT MEMBERS.

- THESE ARE THE GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE. BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENT IS FLEXIBILITY AND THE COOPERATION OF ALL MEMBERS. ANTAGONIZATION WILL HURT THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE. SO WILL ALIENATION.

THEREFORE, IT IS THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION WHICH THE
COMMITTEE WILL LOOK FOR. IN ITS ABSENCE THE COMMITTEE
WILL BE REDUCED TO A WINDOW-DRESSING, A GRIM PROSPECT
NEITHER THE CHAIRMAN NOR THE MEMBERS CAN TOLERATE.
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